



Tree Climbing Championship May 18–19 in Austin

by Keith Brown

The annual Texas Tree Climbing Competition will be coming back to my home town, Austin, in Zilker Park this year on May 18th and 19th. The TTCC is where I was first groomed to be an arborist; anyone wanting to test their skills or learn from the best tree workers in the state should come.

Even though this is a competition, the camaraderie amongst climbers is strong. Sometimes I think the climbers are more excited to come show off their new tricks and gear rather than try to win the competition. Over the last few years we've had climbers from all over the world attend the competition, coming from as far as New Zealand. Last year we had the women's International Climbing Champion show up to demonstrate how good women climbers can be. I can't wait to see who'll be here this year.

We're going to stick to the two-day format. On Friday the 18th we'll start the preliminary rounds of the competition and on Saturday we will finish up any prelims as needed and run the Master's Challenge. As of this writing, we're currently in negotiation with Mark Chisholm to hold a pre-competition workshop on Thursday the 17th. Stay tuned for more details.

Drought takes toll on urban forest, millions of shade trees dead

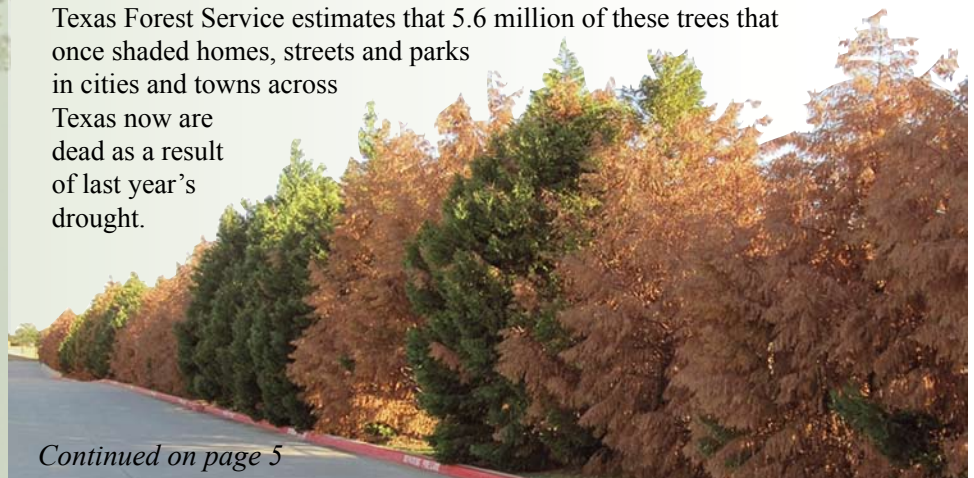
by Pete Smith and Gretchen Riley, Staff Foresters, Urban & Community Forestry Program, Texas Forest Service, College Station

Last year, Texas was ravaged by an unprecedented, unrelenting drought that left its mark on nearly every part of the Lone Star state. In December, Texas Forest Service – a member of The Texas A&M University System – issued study results showing that 100 to 500 million forest trees may have succumbed to the drought, but this estimate did not include trees in urban areas.

In January, agency urban foresters conducted a follow-up study to determine tree mortality in the urban forests of the state. The trees that line our streets, shade our homes and give us a quiet place to relax at our local parks all are considered part of the urban forest.

Texas Forest Service estimates that 5.6 million of these trees that once shaded homes, streets and parks in cities and towns across

Texas now are dead as a result of last year's drought.



Continued on page 5



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Bacterial Leaf Scorch Photo: William M. Ciesla, Forest Health Management International, Bugwood.org



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER by Keith Brown



Spring has sprung a little early this year it seems. The moisture is very welcomed. With any luck, this wet pattern will hold out a little longer so we can have a good spring. My business sure needs it and the trees do too.

It seems that every year as spring approaches I begin to see new problems crop up that are slightly different than recent years. What do you think is in store for us this year? Over the last couple years, the ISAT board has been developing peer-reviewed articles discussing important tree topics. Let us know what problems you see most this spring. If there are any prominent issues affecting a large area of the state we can organize an article to make available for tree care services and homeowners.

Oak wilt season is upon us. Have you read the new oak wilt recommendation that was released last year? If not you can find it on our website: <http://bit.ly/yiabwi>. Also, the tree climbing competition is coming up this May 18 and 19. Be sure to join us! As always, send me your feedback on anything you think the chapter can do better for you. You can reach me at keith dot austintree at gmail.com.

Dr. Raupp's Advanced Pest Control Workshop for the Arborist March 21-22 in Austin

Back by popular demand! Dr. Michael Raupp's lectures were so popular at the 2010 Texas Tree Conference, that ISA-Texas has invited him back to update us on the latest and greatest in pest control technology for tree care.

Dr. Raupp will provide in-depth information on the insects, scales, and mites that attack Texas trees. He is well known for his working knowledge of state-of-the-art products and application techniques, and he will tell us what really works and what won't work to control Texas pests.

Dr. Raupp is a professor of entomology and extension specialist

at the University of Maryland. He has published more than 250 articles and papers and delivered more than 700 presentations on the ecology and management of insects and mite pests. He is a regular guest on *Good Morning America* and has appeared on the PBS *News Hour*, *National Geographic*, and NPR.

This exciting and educational ISA-Texas Masters Series spring workshop will be March 21–22 at the Thompson Center, University of Texas, Austin. Registration is available online now at isatexas.com.

Upcoming Events in Amarillo

The 8th Annual Tree Care and Safety workshop will be held April 20 in Amarillo. It is informative, affordable, and will offer several ISA and TDA CEUs, and lunch from Chic Fil-A.

Arbor Day will be celebrated April 27 and will recognize Amarillo's 16th year as a Tree City USA. A student from Amarillo's Lawndale Elementary will be honored for her poster that won the West and South Region in the State Arbor Day Poster Contest. Childress will also be recognized for their second year as a Tree City USA.

Also this spring, the 4th annual Green Select Day will promote replanting and community involvement as hundreds of volunteers plant hundreds of trees in several parks.

This summer, a pre-certification course will be held and an ISA Exam will follow on August 10 at Amarillo College Business and Industry Center.

For more information contact bscott@tfs.tamu.edu.

—Brian Scott

TreeKeepers Workshops

Midland TreeKeepers has scheduled two workshops on Trees and Drought at the Sibley Nature Center:

March 24	9 am –11pm
April 21	9 am –11pm

For more information contact Randy Myers, Urban Forester, City of Midland, 432-685-7366.

New Texas ISA members

Alexandra K. Hagan, San Antonio
Arturo Sandoval, Klein
Bryan A. Gonzales, San Angelo
Heather Kristine Fojtasek, Austin
James F. Ward, Nacogdoches
James W. Hansen, San Antonio
Jerry V. Staton, Dallas
Ross Moore, Paris
Thomas A. Chaky, Austin



Historic Trees of Texas

The oldest living witnesses to Texas history come to life in a photography exhibit running through March 11 at the McDermott Learning Center at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. The photographs of historic Texas trees are by Ralph Yznaga. The photos will also be featured in a forthcoming book, *Living Witness: The Historic Trees of Texas*, to be published by Texas A&M Press.

Texas Wildlife & Woodland Expo March 24 in Conroe

The annual Texas Wildlife and Woodland Expo & Spring Fling is designed to help families learn a little about the land on which they live – and how to best take care of it – through hands-on clinics, live demonstrations and children's activities.

The event will be held at Lone Star College-Montgomery, in Conroe. This year organizers have placed a special emphasis on helping residents recover from drought and wildfires.

Free, hands-on clinics and live demonstrations will show people how to nourish their plants and trees, attract wildlife to their property, collect and use rainwater and protect their home from wildfires.

At the Family Adventure Zone, kids can climb a rock wall, take a peek at a live screech owl and learn how to kayak. At Expo & Spring Fling, you'll play for a day but learn for a lifetime.

For more information go to <http://expo.tamu.edu/>.



Nonprofit Tree Groups Join Forces

TreeLink, the nonprofit urban forestry organization, along with its website and iTreeBank program, is becoming part of the national nonprofit organization, Alliance for Community Trees.

"TreeLink and iTreeBank will continue a mission to raise awareness and enable support for healthy urban and community forests everywhere," said Ray Tretheway, current chair of the boards of both TreeLink and ACTrees. "Alliance for Community Trees is ideally positioned to build on the success of TreeLink and iTreeBank."

Alliance for Community Trees (ACTrees), incorporated in 1993 as an alliance of community-based urban forestry groups, is a coalition of nearly 200 member organizations involved in grassroots community greening, public education and policymaking.



iTREEBANK™
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TREELINK
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ACTrees
Tree by Tree • Street by Street
Alliance for Community Trees

Drought Takes Toll on Urban Forest *(continued from page 1)*

The estimate is considered preliminary because trees continue to die from the drought. The figure is likely to undercount the number of trees that ultimately will succumb, which may not be known until the end of 2012, if ever. Trees are removed for a variety of reasons every year, so identifying those killed by drought becomes more difficult as time goes by.

Findings:

- An estimated **5.6 million trees** in urban areas were killed as a result of the drought. This figure may represent as much as 10 percent of the total number of trees that make up the urban forest.
- Because these dead trees are in populated areas, many now threaten buildings, roads, and walkways and will have to be removed. **The estimated cost to remove all dead trees in the study is \$560 million.**
- Shade trees do more than just beautify our communities. They also provide economic and environmental benefits such as cutting energy bills, cleaning pollution from the air, reducing stormwater runoff, storing carbon, and boosting property values. **The estimated loss in economic and environmental benefits is roughly \$280 million per year.**

The study included all cities and towns in Texas with the exception of the Trans-Pecos region, where tree mortality was determined to be a result of a February 2011 cold snap, not the drought. Especially hard-hit areas include the pine forests of Harris, Montgomery and Waller counties in Southeast Texas.

Foresters reviewed satellite imagery taken before and during the drought (2010 vs. fall 2011) to estimate the number of drought-killed trees. They counted live and dead trees on randomly selected plots made up of both private and public lands.

Tree removal costs were estimated using contractor rates reported by the City of Houston. Environmental and

economic values were calculated using the National Tree Benefit Calculator (<http://www.treebenefits.com/calculator/>) and a statewide average 8-inch diameter tree.

Pay close attention to tree health as spring approaches.

Homeowners and public tree managers should pay close attention to tree health as spring approaches. Pine and cedar trees that have turned brown or red are dead; other shade trees that have lost bark or do not leaf out in spring can be removed.

When hiring a contractor to remove a dead tree, homeowners are advised to use a Certified Arborist with an appropriate level of liability insurance. Local electric utility providers may also have programs to assist homeowners

with removal of dead trees near powerlines.

It is uncertain how long the drought will continue, but replanting is a good idea as long as regular watering of new trees can be accomplished. Even though it may have rained recently, low aquifer or lake levels may mean that local watering restrictions continue to be in effect. The ability to water during the summer is critical to deciding whether to plant now. For tips on watering yard trees during drought conditions, or to watch a video on the topic, go to the “Texas Drought” link on the Texas Forest Service home page (<http://txforestsERVICE.tamu.edu/>).

Replanting offers an opportunity to diversify the landscape. Certain species seemed to be especially vulnerable to extreme drought (i.e. water oak, loblolly pine and Ashe juniper), so take the opportunity to try other drought-tolerant species. The online *Texas Tree Planting Guide* (<http://TexasTreePlanting.tamu.edu>) provides recommendations from Texas Forest Service on the best trees to plant in any area of the state. Selection options can be tailored to fit a variety of site conditions and homeowner preferences.

Certification Tests

These certification tests are scheduled for 2012:

March 30	San Antonio
April 11	Round Rock
May 14	Fort Worth
August 15	Round Rock
October 5	Waco

Certification information and an application form can be obtained at <http://www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/index.aspx>. As with all Certification Examinations the application must be in the ISA office 12 working days prior to the Exam.

ISA Certified Arborist computer based exam now available in Texas. To view computer based testing locations please go to <http://www.isa-arbor.com/certification/benefits/credentialsExplained.aspx>. In order to schedule a computer based exam, you **must** submit your application and/or retake form to ISA. The testing vendor will not allow you to schedule an exam directly through them.



2 billion gallons a year

by Oscar Mestas, Regional Urban Forester, Texas Forest Service

With all this talk about drought and what Texas went through last year, and also predicted for next year: If you recall my article in the last newsletter, I mentioned that here in Far West Texas the drought is not as much of an issue for us because we constantly deal with it. So what do we do, how do we deal with drought? Well one way is our progressive water utilities here in El Paso; they are always planning ahead. El Paso has been using Purple Pipe or reclaimed water for years. Reclaimed water is being used to water parks, golf courses and the City Tree Farm.

Take a look at this short article written by Ed Archuleta, the President/CEO of El Paso Water utilities.

Expanding the Nation's Water Supply

A Message from Ed Archuleta, P.E., President/CEO

Water is too valuable to be used only once at El Paso Water Utilities. The water that goes down your drain is collected and treated at our wastewater treatment plants. After treatment, a network of purple pipes, pumps and tanks delivers this reclaimed water to some customers for reuse.

2 Billion Gallons A Year

Treated wastewater from our Haskell Street Plant has irrigated Ascarate Golf Course since 1962, and El Paso Electric Co. became our first industrial customer in 1992. Today, each of our wastewater plants produces reclaimed water. Using reclaimed water saves 2 billion gallons of potable water annually; it's a key component in our water resource management plan.

Reclaimed water is highly regulated. It has been proven safe for non-potable uses such as irrigation,

wetland restoration, street sweeping and fire protection. Contractors use it for construction activities such as dust control, and we inject water meeting drinking water standards into the Hueco Bolson to replenish our groundwater supplies.

New Drinking Water Sources

In 2008, I had the privilege of being appointed to a National Academies of Engineering and Sciences committee studying the feasibility of augmenting drinking water supplies with reclaimed water. Our recently released report documents the first analysis of this type in more than 30 years.

Many cities have followed El Paso's lead by using reclaimed water for non-potable purposes. The quality of wastewater treated by state-of-the-art reclamation systems can be comparable to, and sometimes significantly higher than, water from some of the nation's drinking water treatment systems.

Growth and climate change are creating water supply challenges throughout the country. Our report confirms that reclaimed water can become a safe, reliable means of augmenting municipal water supplies. We're recommending additional national research and regulation to ensure health protection and increase public confidence in this area.



Purple pumps at this El Paso treatment plant are part of a system that reclaims wastewater for non-potable uses.

TFS Promotes ISA Certification for Municipal Employees

by Crystal N. Davis, Coordinator of Special Projects, Texas Forest Service

As part of the Texas Emerging Communities Initiative, Texas Forest Service (TFS) promotes proper tree care practices in rapidly growing small to medium sized communities across the state. In order to assist these communities in addressing tree care, TFS is pleased to announce it has offered funding to reimburse municipal staff in select communities throughout the state for the costs associated with becoming an ISA Certified Arborist.

Scholarships have been offered to staff within departments involved in tree management—including, but not limited to, code enforcement, public works, planning, and parks and recreation. Scholarships cover the full cost of testing, an ISA study guide, and up to \$125 for any test preparation course in Texas.

Successful Tree Programs Start with Professional Tree Staff

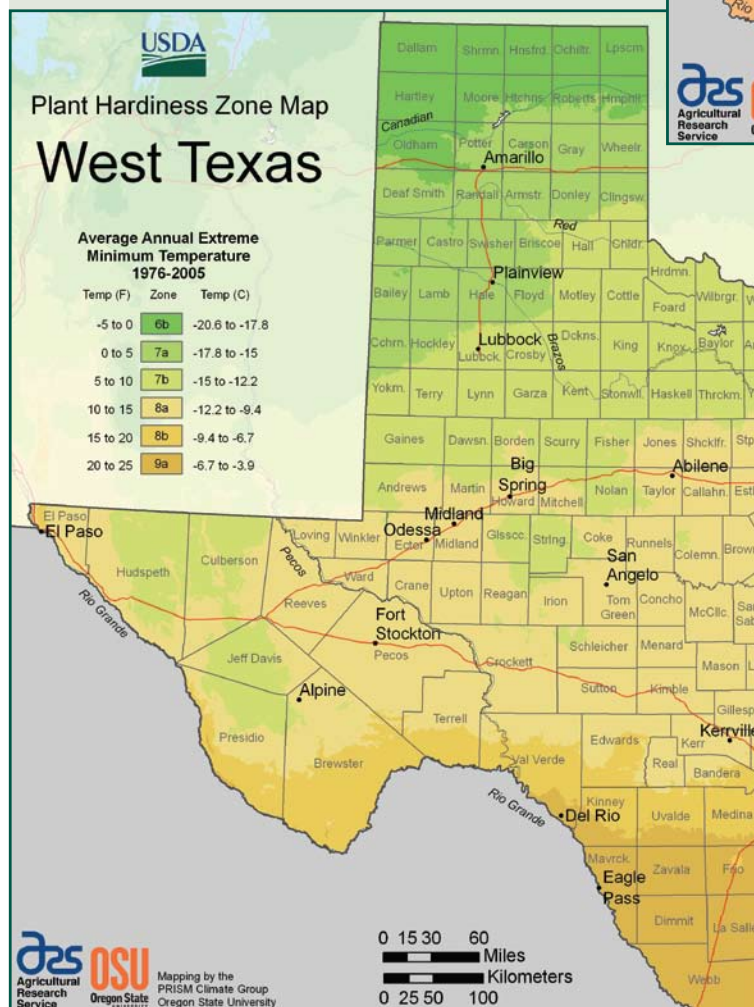
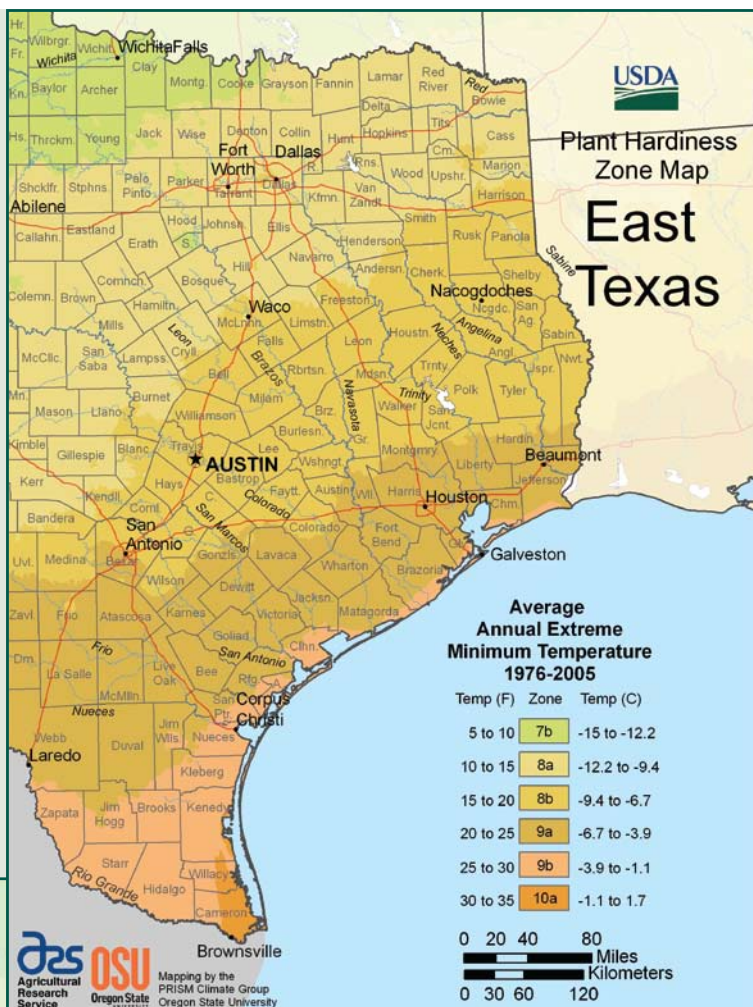
It is well documented that trees play an integral role in the growth and character of a community. They provide benefits in excess of simply shade and beauty; they increase property values, support the economic development process, and help mitigate stormwater runoff, among others. However, in order to maximize these benefits, trees must be managed properly, and that starts with highly knowledgeable staff. ISA certification helps enhance technical proficiency in tree care.

For additional information, or to discover how your community may benefit from Texas Emerging Communities, please visit www.TexasEmergingCommunities.org.

USDA Unveils New Plant Hardiness Zone Map

The 2012 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map is the standard by which gardeners and growers can determine which plants are most likely to thrive at a location. The map is based on the average annual minimum winter temperature, divided into 10-degree F zones.

For the first time, the map is available as an interactive GIS-based map, for which a broadband Internet connection is recommended, and as static images for those with slower Internet access.



Users may also simply type in a ZIP Code and find the hardiness zone for that area.

No posters of the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map have been printed. But state, regional, and national images of the map can be downloaded and printed in a variety of sizes and resolutions. The website is:
<http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/#>
(recommend using Internet Explorer).

Urban Foresters and Allies: SMA is for You

by Michelle Sutton, City Trees Editor

Founded in 1964, the Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA) is a professional organization for municipal arborists, urban foresters, consultants, parks superintendents, and affiliates. Its mission is to “lead the world in building the confidence, competence, and camaraderie of the family of professionals who create and sustain community forests.” To learn more, see www.urban-forestry.com.

Currently the SMA has 1350 members, principally from the U.S.,

Canada, Europe, and Australia. Benefits of membership include City Trees, the magazine of the Society; access to online forums and to the popular SMA Listserv, where real-life scenarios are addressed; reduced registration cost at the annual conference; and participation in the Society’s many programs such as the international Arborist Exchange, Municipal Accreditation, and the annual Municipal Forestry Institute.

It’s crucial in this time of shrinking budgets for all city foresters to join SMA and become part of an international peer network. Having many and varied voices will help us carry more weight in our own communities and be able to lobby for our urban forest programs. And with advances in science and technology

occurring daily, municipal arborists need a network they can rely upon for the latest and most reliable information. Every city forester has a wealth of information that he/she can share, and SMA is the conduit for doing just that. SMAers also ask each other for advice and help when things like EAB or hurricanes come along and action is needed quickly.

There are various categories of membership. Individuals pay \$75 a year, but municipalities can join for \$140 and have up to five members under that umbrella for an additional \$25 a person. Local volunteers and allied professionals can become members for \$40 a year.

Every city should strive to achieve SMA accreditation, which is the next step beyond Tree City USA status. This accreditation shows the citizens of your community why they should be proud of their forestry program, proves that their tax dollars are yielding results, and gives your community managers and elected officials something to boast about.

Over and over again, Municipal Forestry Institute (MFI) participants speak of how transformative this week-long training, held annually in February, is for them. Teaching team member Walt Warriner says, “This program is like no other in our industry because it doesn’t focus on the technicalities of tree care. Rather, MFI teaches leadership skills, like how to work with varied personalities and how to adapt an urban forestry program to a

fast-changing world.” One of the skills participants practice is how to be effective during media interviews.

Every state should send at least one person every year to MFI to build a statewide network of professionals. It is the premier leadership training program in urban forestry. MFI graduate C. David Grant of Monroe, NC, says “Find a way to be a part of this educational experience! It is the most practical (and fun) training I have had as an urban forester.”

For 47 years, the SMA hosted its own annual conference. Beginning in 2012, we will be integrated with the Partners in Community Forestry Conference. We are excited about getting our message out to allied organizations while still enjoying the benefits of meeting with one another and sharing camaraderie, advice, and technical innovations. SMAers have a longstanding reputation as a warm, welcoming, and convivial bunch. We feel that our joint conference will be a win for all parties.

Please see www.urban-forestry.com to join the SMA. It is the single most important investment you can make in your professional development, and your colleagues are eager to meet you.

Save the date:

**PCF/SMA Conference
Nov. 14 – 16**

The 2012 Partners in Community Forestry National Conference will be held jointly with the Society of Municipal Arborists Conference in Sacramento, CA Nov. 14 – 16.

As a national leader in urban and community forestry, Sacramento provides an excellent arena for discussion and collaboration.

More information is coming at <http://www.arboday.org/programs/index.cfm>, including schedules for pre-conference programs, so check back often.



Glencoe, Illinois, known for its many mature bur oak groves like this one, is an SMA-accredited city.





EDITOR'S NOTE by Oscar Mestas

Spring is here, the trees are budding out, time to scrub off the rust and brush off those spider webs. This is the time of year when the general public starts getting excited about adding new plant material to their gardens. What are we (as arborists) going to do to help them?

I know that here in Far West Texas, our local non-profits get geared up for Poppy Day at Franklin Mountain State Park. This is the time our local tree group, the West Texas Urban Forestry Council, sets up a booth to disseminate information on tree care and maintenance. You will find me sitting behind the booth helping out. What do you have planned in your neck of the woods? Are you volunteering anywhere? Have you thought about participating in one of the upcoming events in your area? This is a great time to share your knowledge.

We have several native plant sales where I'm one of the local tree experts to help consumers purchase the correct tree for their property. I have already given a pruning class and demonstration at the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute in Fort Davis back in February. You're going to say it's part of my job to do these things, and yes it is. But, I do have the choice of not working on Saturday or Sunday, and most of these events occur on the weekend, so my point is, it doesn't hurt to give up a few hours on a weekend to help get the word out. It's a great way to meet new folks and potential customers.

So look out for an event near you, volunteer your services, and remember Arbor Day is just around the corner.

The Austin Treebune: Creating a Monthly Newsletter

by Keith O'Herrin and Angela Hanson,
Austin Urban Forestry

The City of Austin's Urban Forestry Program has officially entered the 21st century with the completion of our social media marketing trifecta: Facebook, Twitter, and now a monthly email newsletter called the Austin Treebune. It occurred to us in mid-December that we were not reaching a possible audience by utilizing Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/pardnature>) and Twitter (#coatrees), but ignoring good ol' fashioned email. The key to a successful social media campaign is not to utilize just one tool, but many.

We have already sent out the second edition of the newsletter, and have stayed consistent with the format from the first month to the second. Each month we will try to highlight some hard news such as progress on our

Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan, and complement it with more soft news such as a successful volunteer event. We also leave room for a small column about either seasonal tips for homeowners, tree folklore, or traditional forest product uses.

To date the Austin Treebune has cost our program little to produce and nothing to distribute. We decided to utilize a free service/website called MailChimp to both create the newsletter and manage the mailing list. MailChimp, along with many other free email campaign websites, allows the user to construct the format of the newsletter by generating the necessary HTML code behind the scenes. Free e-newsletter sites are very useful for forestry professionals who have more experience sharpening chainsaws than writing computer code. Here is a link to a website which reviewed MailChimp and six other email

marketing competitors which helped us make a well-informed decision:

<http://www.email-marketing-options.com/email-marketing-reviews>.

On a related topic regarding ease of use for your customers/citizens, we paid a mere \$20 for a domain name for our program's website. We have gone from www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/trees/planting.html to simply www.AustinUrbanForestry.org (currently under construction). We also use www.AustinTreePlanting.org (also under construction) which will link to our tree planting page. This will allow us to more easily inform people about our website in literature, radio, television, and even by shouting it from a moving car.



Don't forget to subscribe to our newsletter: <http://eepurl.com/hCD8E>.
En español: <http://eepurl.com/ilFen>.

Adventures with OSHA & ANSI

by Jordy Hagen, Certified Arborist

Over the many years I have been a Certified Arborist and running my own company, I've dealt with many changes in our field. It seems that when an issue comes up there always seems to be a solution.

We all know that safety is our number one concern. So when I was shut down on a jobsite for a safety violation I was very concerned. I was called by the safety officer for the construction company that we were working for on a project in downtown San Antonio.

He stated that we were in violation due to our climbing belts. He went on to describe OSHA laws and that we should be in fall arrest harnesses. I smiled and allowed him to continue his safety speech.

We all know that we are arborists and we have our own way of doing things. After he was done, I politely explained to him that we have belts that meet or exceed OSHA & ANSI A10.14 Type II regulations. I went on to explain that we use work positioning saddles and we do not use fall arrest saddles. I then went on to explain the ropes we use and that we have two points of attachment and so on.

The guy looked at me and was not impressed. He said that what I said did not comply with OSHA. This made me a little upset, but then I thought, was I taking this all for granted? What do I know about our climbing belts and other safety equipment that we use? This led me to a full day of making phone calls to Sherrill Equipment, Buckingham, Weaver, TCIA & OSHA.

I was surprised with the manufacturers, as they stated that their belts were tested to meet "our" standards, which meet or exceed OSHA & ANSI A10.14 Type II and all other regulations. Sound familiar?

I went on to ask them, "What literature do you have that shows the arborist specific OSHA and ANSI regulations?" Phone call after phone call I was met with the same answer . . . this is a gray area.

As an old climber I then did what any climber would do. . . I went to my climbing belt and looked at the safety regulations. It said, "This belt is for positioning and suspension use only. This belt is for tree trimming. Professional use only. Consult and follow ANSI Z-133.1 regulations. This product is to be used for positioning and suspension only, NOT for fall arrest. Manufactured and tested to meet the "passed" criteria according to ANSI A10-14 (8.1.2) 1991. Wow, more grayness.

I then decided to call a fellow arborist in Austin. I respect his opinion and was surprised with his answer. He said, "Go to the Sherrill website and purchase the chest harnesses that attach to the arborist saddles." I had been so frustrated for most of the day, I lost sight of the obvious answer. Thank you, Pat.

I then sat for a while and felt that I still needed answers. It states in the ANSI Z133.1 section 8.1.5, "Arborist ropes, work-positioning harness(es), and climbing equipment shall be approved by the *manufacturer* for use within the tree care industry." I am back to the manufacturer! The construction company did not care about ANSI, they just want something from OSHA.

I then called OSHA. I spoke with three different representatives and worked on my issue for a long time. It all came down to a case from May 7, 1982. I was 11 years old then.

You can look this up on the OSHA website under Standard Number 1910.132. It comments on the correct testing procedure for tree-trimming saddle belts. In short, it states that OSHA does not provide testing procedures for tree-trimming saddle belts at the present time. However, the American National Standards Institute, Inc. ANSI Z133.1-1979 contains safety requirements for pruning, trimming, repairing, maintaining, and removing trees, and for cutting brush.

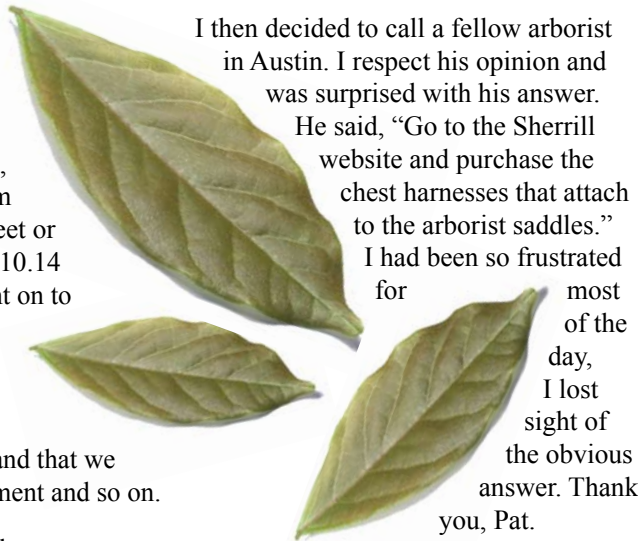
It goes on to say that 3.2.6 of ANSI requires safety belts or tree-trimming saddle belts as specified in ANSI requirements for safety belts, harnesses, lanyards, lifelines, and droplines for construction and industrial use, ANSI A10.14-1975, or a saddle formed by a double bowline on a bight shall be worn by workers above ground level.

The testing procedure mentioned appears to comply with the intent of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 provided the test is performed as set out in ANSI A10.14-1975. Wow, I feel like I just won the case of the old lady who spilt hot coffee on her lap and won millions from McDonalds! I now had the smoking gun. I have to admit though, a case from 1982 seems a little outdated. What it comes down to is that OSHA defers to ANSI standards in climbing belts. I could finally tie OSHA to ANSI.

I took this information and wrote a letter to the construction company's safety regional division. The outcome: it was accepted and they now recognize our climbing belts as they would a fall arrest belt.

You may have never come across such an event, but if you do in the future, you will have two options: provide the safety officer with the information or do the more logical thing and go to the Sherrill website and purchase the chest harness for your climbing belts.

If you would like to look at additional ►



◀ information that I found, please go to the following link:

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=10756

I can also send you a document from the US Department of Labor, OSHA Administration. It is the *Citation Guide Related to Tree Care & Tree Removal Operations*, Directive Number CPL 02-01-045, Effective Date 8/21/2008. Page iii says:

Many of the hazards found in tree care and tree removal operations are addressed by existing General Industry standards and Section 5(a) (1) (the General Duty Clause) of the OSH Act. This instruction provides guidance to Compliance Safety and Health Officers (CSHOs) on OSHA standards that generally apply to tree care and tree removal operations. OSHA believes that this instruction will ensure that appropriate protective measures will be provided to address hazards associated with the full range of tree removal operations.

Arbor Day Bike Challenge in McAllen

by Salvador E. Alemany, Regional Urban Forester, Rio Grande Valley

The City of McAllen in the lower Rio Grande Valley began celebrating Arbor Day this year with an Arbor Day Bike Challenge.

Mike Kroeze, McAllen City Forester, led the February 4 event, with coordination and support from the City public works, traffic, and police departments, along with Keep McAllen Beautiful and Texas Forest Service. Sponsors included Donna Medical Clinic, HEB, Buffalo Wild Wings, and Southern Landscape Inc.

At 7:30 in the morning, with a cooling breeze ranging in the low 70s, more than 120 cyclists – including City Commissioner Jim Darling and his wife – cycled their choice of a 20- or 40-mile course designed and planned by City traffic operations. Sports Federation of the Valley, a local cycling club, efficiently supervised and handled the bike ride. The ride ended at Splash Park, where riders commemorated Arbor Day and

enjoyed food and a festive atmosphere. Riders walked around with giveaway seedlings in their cycling jerseys' back pockets; they gave away 150 seedlings. A 3-inch caliper tree donated by Simmons Oak Nursery in Harlingen was raffled off. Mark Kroeze, Salvador Alemany from TFS, and Grant



Ed Kuprel, city forester of Edinburg, planted the 3" caliper tree won by an Edinburg resident.

S. Ehlen from American Electric Power (AEP) concluded the event by talking about the benefits of trees and the role of AEP with trees and the community. Eight trees were donated by AEP and planted for this Arbor Day Bike Challenge.

The city plans to celebrate this event annually on the first Saturday of February. Next year's bike ride will include planting trees along the route and creating a map indicating the species names of the trees. Organizers expect to triple the number of participants.

"Trees and cycling enhance the quality of life and health of our citizens, and events such as this foresee a place for trees and the urban forest in the City of McAllen," said Mike Kroeze.



Participants in the McAllen Bike Challenge gave away 150 seedlings.



PEST POST

Survey for Emerald Ash Borer Expanded in Texas

By Ronald F. Billings and Joe Pase,
Texas Forest Service

Texas Forest Service (TFS) and Texas AgriLife Extension Service (TAES) soon will be surveying 67 counties across the state for presence of the emerald ash borer, an invasive insect that kills its host—all species of ash.

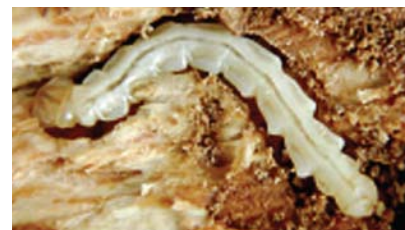
This exotic wood-boring beetle from Asia attacks even healthy ash trees, and the larvae feed on the area between the wood and the bark, effectively killing the tree. The half-inch-long, dark, metallic-green insect first was found in Michigan in 2002, and since has spread to at least 15 different states and Canada, killing millions of ash trees. The survey, designed and funded by the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), will help determine if the beetle has spread to Texas. The closest known location with an EAB infestation is Missouri. But these insects can be easily spread, particularly in firewood. Accordingly, TFS also has begun a

trees in Central, South and East Texas (see map). The traps will be checked in June and August and then removed. In recent years, TAES has deployed about 200 traps per year in selected state and federal parks and campgrounds in Central and East Texas and detected no EAB, but the survey will be greatly expanded in 2012.

Resembling a three-paneled box kite, the large purple traps, coated with non-toxic sticky material, will be baited with fragrant chemicals then placed in or near ash trees in state and federal parks, campgrounds and on private lands, with the landowner's permission.

The traps will be hung six to ten feet above the ground and will display a "Do Not Disturb" sign. Any suspicious-looking beetles that resemble emerald ash borers will be collected for review by experts.

Early detection and eradication are key steps in preventing the emerald ash borer from becoming established in Texas.



Emerald ash beetle larva (up to 1 inch long).



Emerald ash beetle adult (about 1/2 inch long).

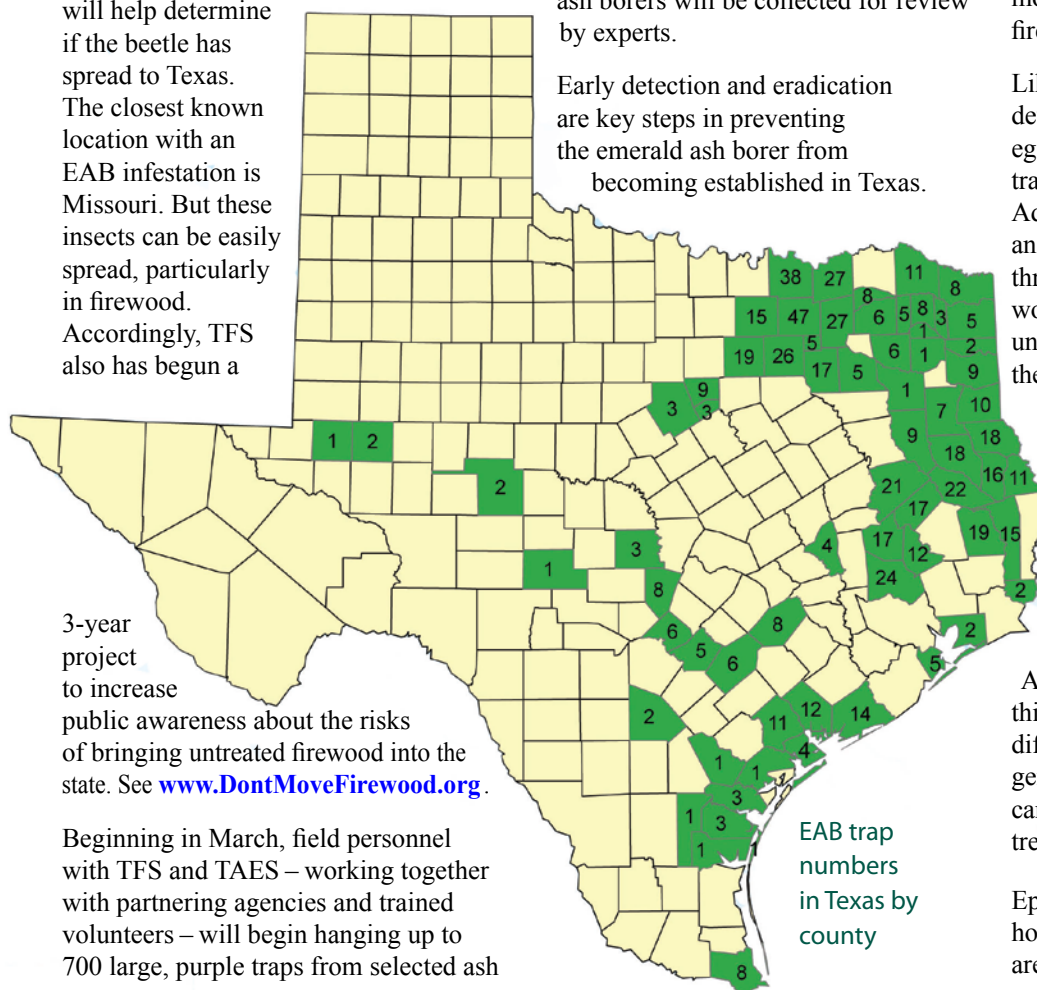
Infestations often start when people move infested nursery trees, logs or firewood into uninfested areas.

Like all beetles, the emerald ash borer develops through four life stages – egg, larva, pupa and adult. The total transformation can take a year or longer. Adult beetles could be present in Texas and searching for new hosts from April through August. Young larvae then would feed in the nutrient-rich area just under the bark and eventually bore into the outer wood of the tree.

Mature larvae spend the winter feeding before emerging in the spring as adult beetles, leaving small, D-shaped exit holes in the bark. Adult beetles can fly at least a half-mile away from an infested tree once they emerge.

Ash trees are the only known host for this beetle, but early infestations are difficult to detect. The first symptom generally is dieback in the crown, but it can take up to three years for an infested tree to die.

Epicormic branching and D-shaped exit holes in the bark of declining ash trees are other signs of EAB infestations. ►





Emerald ash beetle trap installed on an ash tree.

◀ The most formidable task facing surveyors this year will be finding suitable locations for all the traps. If you know a landowner with ash trees (healthy or not) on their property located within counties being monitored who may be interested in “adopting” a trap for the 2012 season, surveyors could use their help.

Have them notify the closest Texas Forest Service office or contact Regional Forest Health Specialists Joe Pase at 936-639-8170 or jpase@tfs.tamu.edu (East Texas) or James Houser at 512-339-4589 or jhouser@tfs.tamu.edu (Central and South Texas). If the location is suitable, surveyors will set up and monitor the trap and then remove it at the end of the season. There is no risk to the landowner.

The last day to adopt an EAB trap is March 15, 2012. For more information contact your nearest TFS District office, Ron Billings, Forest Health Manager with TFS (rbillings@tfs.tamu.edu), or visit www.emeraldashborer.info.

1,300 Trees Planted in Houston Competition

by Mickey Merritt, Bayou Region Urban Forestry Coordinator, Texas Forest Service

More than 130 volunteers braved frigid temperatures and muddy conditions Feb. 11 to plant 1,300 trees in less than two hours at the Houston Area Urban Forestry Council’s 2012 Arbor Day Tree Planting Competition sponsored by the Texas Forest Service, Harris County Flood Control District and the Texas Urban Forestry Council.

The 13 teams that competed helped to transform the landscape of a Flood Control District stormwater detention basin. The basin stores overflow stormwater on a Flood Control District drainage channel that serves as a tributary to White Oak Bayou in northwest Harris County.

The top, and only, team in the professional category – BIO Landscape and Maintenance, Inc. – planted 100 trees in 20 minutes. That team’s planting time, along with the teams that placed first, second and third in the amateur and youth categories, will be submitted to the state level to compete for the Texas Urban Forestry Council’s top awards. The winners will be announced at the State Arbor Day Ceremonies April 27.

Winners at the Houston event were:

Professional Category

BIO Landscape and Maintenance, Inc.
(20 minutes)

Amateur Category

1st Place - Kirskey Architecture
(1 hour, 11 minutes)
2nd Place - Houston Community College Team 3
(1 hour, 34 minutes, 2 seconds)
3rd Place - Houston Community College Team 1
(1 hour, 34 minutes, 3 seconds)

Youth Category

1st Place - Memorial Outreach Bunch (MOB) Red Team
(1 hour, 35 minutes, 14 seconds)
2nd Place - Memorial Outreach Bunch (MOB) Blue Team
(1 hour, 50 minutes, 19 seconds)

“We are proud that we were able to plant 1,300 trees in less than ideal conditions with an amazing group of volunteers,” said Mickey Merritt, Bayou Region Urban Forestry Coordinator for the Texas Forest Service. “We were also able to demonstrate to volunteers the proper way to plant trees, which will carry over to future tree plantings that they participate in.”

Through this annual event, the Houston Area Urban Forestry Council is able to educate participants on proper tree planting and maintenance methods. In addition the Flood Control District

and taxpayers are the beneficiaries of trees on a formerly bare stormwater detention basin site. All participants had the opportunity to take part in an event that promotes tree planting in Harris County during a time when many trees have been lost to disease and drought.





CLIMBING LINES by Guy LeBlanc, Certified Arborist

Pruning Guidelines for Oak Wilt Prevention Clarified by ISAT, TFS

A year ago, representatives of ISAT met with TFS and AgriLife Extension Service reps to clarify the guidelines for oak pruning which are intended to reduce the risk of oak wilt spread. A new statement was desired by many commercial arborists, particularly those in areas most seriously affected by oak wilt, to clarify the basic recommendations that state agencies have made for nearly 30 years.

In recent years there have been some ordinances instated that prohibit oak pruning during certain times of the year. Some of these in the Austin area *even include(d) restrictions on pruning in parts of August and October*, well outside the spring months that the Forest Service has recommended avoiding. The initiative for an agreement with TFS and AgriLife grew in part out of concern from more than a dozen business owners in Austin that the number of such ordinances or the time periods involved would radically increase.

Another reason that these arborists wished to see the TFS guidelines modified was because of their adamant belief that not only could pruning (particularly dead branch removal) be done with reasonable safety during spring months *if*

proper precautions were followed, but that eliminating branches at risk of constant wounding could theoretically reduce the risk of oak wilt. These would include limbs at risk for wounding over streets, or those rubbing against buildings or other limbs in the canopy. Language to this effect was put into the new statement.

In addition, the statement explains that other sources of potential wounding exist, such as weather events and animals. Many ISAT commercial arborists polled during the discussion of this issue believe this is important so that tree pruning was not perceived by the public or municipalities as the only source of new oak wilt centers. It was also stated that most of the spread of the disease occurs underground through root grafts, another point commercial arborists believe is crucial to public perception.

The amendment does recommend that non-essential pruning be avoided from February 1 through June 30, and that all wounds be painted on all oaks at all times of the year. It also emphasizes the importance of making proper pruning cuts and avoiding injurious practices such as over-thinning regardless of oak wilt risk.

The new statement is posted on the Texas oak wilt partnership website, texasoakwilt.org, under the "For Professionals" link.

Special Recognition to Valley Foresters

Four foresters (l to r): Roy Reyes, City Forester of Brownsville ; Mark Kroeze, City Forester of McAllen; Ed Kuprel, City Forester of Edinburg; and Salvador E. Alemany, Regional Urban Forester with Texas Forest Service, have received a Special Congressional Recognition for "outstanding and invaluable service to the community."

The award recognizes the effort, dedication and enormous service local foresters have been providing to their respective communities by managing and conserving the urban forest.



This dry in West Texas is new

West Texas, just as most of the western part of the country, has been in the most severe drought since records have been kept. As a matter of fact, in the Lubbock area, all of the rain that fell in the last half of 2010 added to the 2011 total would still have broken the record for low rainfall. And, Lubbock had more than twice as much as the Permian Basin.

It is a good thing that we already understand drought. If low rainfall had been the only problem for the South Plains, we might have been all right in 2010, but it was also the windiest and hottest year on record. It has certainly been a wake-up call to nurseries and landscapers to plant more xeric plants.

These severe conditions would normally been a completely devastating event during the severe recession that the nation has been under. But West Texas has not been as hard hit as the rest of the state and nation. As a matter of fact, due to the high oil prices, the Permian Basin is booming.

Tree Loving Care, based in Lubbock for 34 years, has decided to finally move into that market and opened an office in Midland in January.

—James Tuttle, owner, Tree Loving Care

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What's the Big Idea?



Spring is just around the corner. Many trees are already flowering and fruiting. Can you identify this species from its fruit? Hint: Vicks knows it, Halls knows it, do you?.

For the answer visit the ISAT Facebook page, look for the post with the same photo. Try your hand at identifying this species.

Log on and type in both the common and scientific name. We will check the page daily until the tree has been correctly identified, confirming the correct answer.

Last month's winner

The Big Idea winner for January was Mark Eric Tietz. Mark correctly identified the tree pictured in our January BigIdea as *acer leucoderme*, chalk maple. Congratulations!



Heat, Drought, and Trees

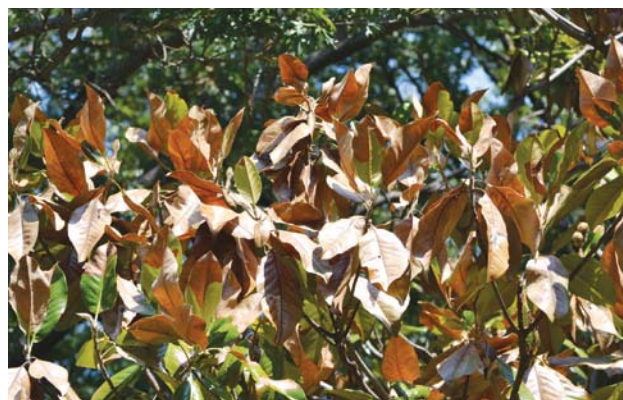
by Steve Houser

Given the current drought and associated water restrictions, important questions arise: How do drought and heat affect plants? How do you water and care for plants during an extended drought and the resulting water restrictions? Before we can discuss watering plants, it is important to look at how they are affected by heat and drought. Since tree roots in an urban landscape are intertwined with the roots of other nearby plants, a discussion about watering and care should include all the elements of the landscape as an integral ecosystem. For the sake of brevity, let's consider trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and turf to be covered by one term: "plants."

How does drought affect plants?

- On non-irrigated sites, drought, or the lack of rainfall, causes the loss of smaller feeder roots in the upper levels of the soil as moisture evaporates. If drought conditions continue, roots at deeper soil levels are lost. As soils lose more moisture to evaporation at the surface, they shrink by volume – which causes heaving and cracking. Shrinking soils can cause physical injury to the root system of all plants.

- Smaller plants can be affected immediately as the top few inches of soil become dry. It can take years for the full effects of drought to be apparent in larger plants. Leaves of affected plants turn brown beginning at the edges. As the browning moves toward the center of the leaves, the plant expresses a scorched look. In some cases, primarily in large shrubs and trees, there is not a gradual burning of foliage, but rather a sudden onset of browning on all the leaves. Trees that may appear healthy may turn brown very quickly many years after a drought. In Colorado, aspens, *Populus tremuloides*, are currently dying in great numbers. Their loss is attributed to the drought from 2000 to 2004. ►



Although it has been adequately watered, this southern magnolia's foliage has browned from excessive heat.



Silver maples are not adapted to extreme heat. In spite of sufficient irrigation, leaves curl and turn brown from consistently high temperatures.

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- If a disease, insects, or cultural conditions are an existing problem *before* the drought occurs, plants are more likely to be affected to a greater degree.

How does heat affect plants?

- On both irrigated and non-irrigated sites, extended periods of heat slow the biological function of plants. The effect occurs when daytime temperatures are over 95 degrees, regardless of the amount of moisture in the soil.
- Extreme soil temperatures also slow biological function. In 2011, there were a record number of days with nighttime temperatures never dropping below 85 degrees. No nights over 85 degrees were recorded during the last heat wave of 1980. The loss of biological function is why plants, even on irrigated sites, were negatively affected in 2011. Watering does not shield plants from heat damage.
- Some plant species are more prone to heat damage than others are. For example, silver maple, *Acer saccharinum*, is not heat tolerant; while post oak, *Quercus stellata*, is unaffected.
- Increased air temperatures add to air pollution, affecting plant health. Studies show that tree health is affected by air pollution. I suspect that the same is true for all plants.

Unfortunately, the recent extended period of heat and the drought on non-irrigated sites creates the opportunity for insects and pathogens to wreak havoc on our plants for years to come. Since trees have an energy reserve, they can sustain some damage from insects or pathogens. Either they overcome the damage over time or they go belly-up.

The loss of trees around the state will have a direct impact on us in many ways. The loss of shade increases energy costs. The increased urban heat island effect diminishes our air quality. Neighborhoods will also lose a part of their quality of life, and the erosion of precious topsoil occurs with the loss of foliage.

On the bright side, we have a great opportunity to replace stressed trees with more drought- and heat-resistant plants, minimizing the negative impacts to our environment. Heat- and drought-tolerant plants reduce water use and maintenance expenses. They are a much better long-term investment.

The best defense you have against drought and heat damage is an education that begins with recognizing the effects to your plants.



The sudden onset of brown foliage on this Shumard red oak is attributed to both lack of irrigation and heat stress.



While this post oak has not received irrigation or rainfall for three months, it is clearly unaffected as it shows healthy new bud growth.

Steve Houser is a Dallas native with more than 30 years of experience as a consulting arborist and tree climber. He is the president of Arborilogical Services Inc.

<http://www.arborilogical.com/>

This article was first published in the January, 2012 edition of Neil Sperry's e-Gardens Newsletter: www.neilsperry.com

All photos courtesy of Bill Seaman.

COOL TOOLS by Patrick Wentworth

For years, I have been following the attempts by a variety of manufacturers to come up with a battery-powered chainsaw. Battery technology was the largest obstacle to overcome. Nickel cadmium batteries didn't have enough of a charge to power a chainsaw adequately. The first battery-powered saws I ran across were made by Sears or Black & Decker. Neither were serious saws for anyone other than a

homeowner who had three or four cuts to make.

Enter the market today with lithium ion batteries and longtime chainsaw chain manufacturer Oregon has done it. Oregon teamed up a 40-volt lithium ion battery with a chainsaw of their design that incorporates the new "Powersharp®" feature and you finally have a workable battery powered

chainsaw. It's called the Oregon PowerNow 40V Max Chainsaw.

As you can see from the picture, it actually looks like a chainsaw you use everyday. It has all of the safety features from a safety trigger interlock to a chain brake and a chain catcher in the sprocket cover. It comes with a 14" bar, a low kickback chain, a tool-less side cover, an LED charge status indicator on the battery, and a Powersharp® lever that sharpens the saw in 5 to 7 seconds.

Now is this a chainsaw for daily use or for everyone? No. However, it may have a place in your arsenal of chainsaws. It's quiet, emits no smoke, and works when you need it. The lithium ion batteries will hold their charge for a very long time. All you add is bar oil.

I could see this saw being carried by the field salesman who is called upon to clear a driveway for a client before the crew could get there. A few cuts and the brush could be dragged out of the way to allow the client to go to work. This saw would also be great for the average homeowner that only needs to use a chainsaw a few times a year. It would also come in handy in any location where noise would be a disadvantage as this saw is very quiet compared to a gas powered saw.

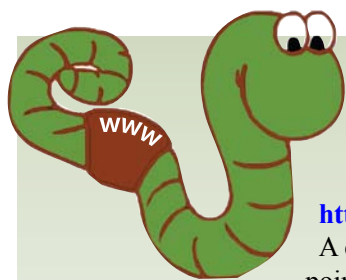
Two models are available – the difference being the battery. The Endurance Battery Pack is perhaps the only one you should consider. As with all things battery powered, the most expensive part of the machine is the battery.

You can check it out at Oregon's web site complete with videos:

<http://www.oregonpowernowtools.com/home.jsp>.

Chainsaw Model	CS250S with Standard Battery Pack	CS250E with Endurance Battery Pack
Tool Weight with Guide Bar, Chain, and Battery	11.0 lb (5.0 kg)	12.0 lb (5.4kg)
Guide Bar Length	14 inch (35cm)	14 inch (35cm)
Chain Type	PowerSharp®	PowerSharp®
Chain Pitch / Gauge	3/8" low profile / .050" gauge	3/8" low profile / .050" gauge
No Load Chain Speed	6400 RPM	6400 RPM
Oil Lubrication System	Automatic	Automatic
Oil Tank Volume	5.9 oz (175ml)	5.9 oz (175ml)
Battery Pack Model	B500S (Standard Model)	B400E (Endurance Model)
Battery Type	Lithium Ion	Lithium Ion
Battery Nominal Capacity	1.25 Ah / 47 Wh	2.4 Ah / 89 Wh
Nominal Voltage	37 V	37 V
Battery Pack Weight	1.7 lb (0.8 kg)	2.7 lb (1.2 kg)
Charger Model	C600	C600
Charge Time (approx.)	60 Minutes	120 Minutes
Warranty	2 YR**	2 YR**
MSRP	\$399	\$499





WEB WORM *by Pat Wentworth*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWxOx2eSqdo>

A climbing video – and you thought climbing trees was hairy. After the short cartoon, the point-of-view video is what it's like to climb a 1,768-foot tower.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/12/101219124718.htm>

Weird/ wonderful plant and fungal discoveries 2010.

<http://www.smartplanet.com/technology/blog/science-scope/camera-sees-through-objects-to-detect-cancer-and-defects-in-buildings/7065/?tag=content;coll>

Next wave of technology for trees.

<http://hillcountryranches.net/wordpress/cedar-trees-disease-mites/>

Disease/ insects killing Ashe junipers.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=U505qByHtsw

Bach's Cantata 147, aka "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring."

<http://dvice.com/archives/2010/11/image-of-the-da-78.php>

Sequoia tunnel.

<http://dvice.com/archives/2010/05/the-alligator-l.php>

Electric chainsaw.

<http://www.treehousesupplies.com/>

Tree house supplies.



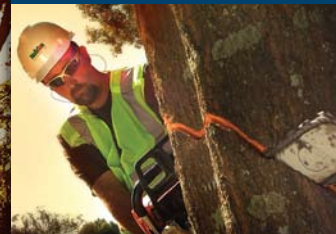
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